UNITED
NATIONS

CCPR

International Covenant
on Civil and
Political Rights

Distr.
GENERAL

CCPR/C/SR.1223
10 May 1993

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

HUMAN RIGHTS COMMITTEE

Forty-seventh session

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 1223rd MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,
on Thursday, 1 April 1993, at 3 p.m.

Chairman: Mr. ANDO

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The meeting was called to order at 3.25 p.m.

CONSIDERATION OF REPORTS SUBMITTED BY STATES PARTIES UNDER ARTICLE 40 OF THE COVENANT (continued)

Second periodic report of Guinea (continued) (CCPR/C/57/Add.2)

1. At the invitation of the Chairman, Mr. Thiam (Guinea) took a place at the Committee table.

2. The CHAIRMAN invited the Committee to resume its questioning of the Guinean delegation in connection with section I of the list of issues.

3. Mr. POCAR noted that, although article 22 of the Basic Law of Guinea, guaranteed all persons the exercise of fundamental rights and freedoms, the second paragraph of that article went on to stipulate that the law could set limits on such rights and freedoms only when such limits were essential for maintaining public order and safeguarding democracy. However, the Covenant did not provide for any limits on the rights and freedoms that it guaranteed.

4. The Committee had been informed that the Covenant took precedence over ordinary law in Guinea, and he wished to know how the superior status of the Covenant over the law was reflected in practice. Could a judge prevent the application of a law that limited rights and freedoms by directly invoking the Covenant, or was there some other machinery or procedure to ensure the primacy of the Covenant over ordinary law?

5. Mr. DIMITRIJEVIĆ, while welcoming the progress that had been achieved and that was described in part III, section B, of the report, said that it would have been more useful if those comments, instead of being put in a separate section had been combined with the observations in section A regarding specific articles of the Covenant. Moreover, while Guinea provided information about the various difficulties it had encountered in its efforts to guarantee civil and political rights, it did not state what it was doing to overcome them.

6. He wished to know what Guinea was doing about the serious human rights abuses that had occurred under the former authoritarian Government. While the Government had proclaimed several amnesties for political offences, it had not taken any measures to bring perpetrators of grave human rights violations to justice. In that regard, he wondered whether there was a policy of national reconciliation that provided compensation to victims of such violations.

7. Regarding the second paragraph of article 22 of the Basic Law he said that it would be more prudent to specify which rights could be limited; moreover, the Constitution and jurisprudence should make it clear that such rights could not be modified or limited by the legislator.

8. Mr. FRANCIS said that, while he was aware that the Government of Guinea was in a period of transition, it was not advisable to overconcentrate powers in the President of the Republic. That was bound to lead to abuses in the exercise of power.

(Mr. Francis)

9. In so far as the judges of the Supreme Court were called upon to give an opinion on the referendum and the dissolution of the National Assembly, they would be exposed to a conflict of interests, since they were being asked to rule on matters in which they had a judicial interest in the past. He inquired whether Guinea had a system of independent legal offices responsible for giving advice to the executive branch regarding such matters as the referendum and the dissolution of the National Assembly. It would be preferable if such legal offices provided all legal advice to the executive, in order not to burden the Supreme Court with such a great responsibility.

10. According to paragraph 64 of its second periodic report, Guinea accepted the primacy of international law over domestic law. That meant that, once ratified, the Covenant took precedence over domestic law in matters relating to Guinea's obligations under the Covenant. However, the notion of reciprocity was disturbing. The Government of Guinea should consider how its reservation regarding reciprocity affected its obligations under the Covenant, and should review that aspect of its policy within the shortest possible time.

11. Mr. THIAM (Guinea) thanked the members of the Committee for their keen interest in the second periodic report of Guinea and for their questions and observations. Guinea hoped to continue its cooperation with the Committee, in particular through the organization of a seminar in Guinea in order to stimulate interest in human rights.

12. Several members of the Committee had commented that the second periodic report had not been properly drafted. Guinea had been unsure whether it should answer the questions raised during the consideration of its initial report or provide information in the context of the new legal framework and that had led it to diverge somewhat from the Committee's guidelines. Moreover, the situation in Guinea had changed since 1991, when the second periodic report had been prepared.

13. Questions had been raised about the authority of the President of the Republic. The President did not have absolute power in so far as he had to cooperate with the legislative and judiciary branches. However, it was considered necessary for him to enjoy a certain freedom of movement and not be subject to certain impediments. Members of the Committee who came from developing countries knew very well that, when the authority of the President, a minister or even a director was open to question, no one would negotiate with him. While Guinea did not wish to create a tyrant, it considered that the President should be given the necessary authority to negotiate.

14. The President of the Republic was obliged to reply to oral and written questions from the National Assembly. Moreover, the Basic Law permitted the National Assembly to establish commissions of inquiry on matters that required clarification. The President could not, therefore, take a decision and apply it fully without being accountable to the National Assembly.

15. The Supreme Court was responsible for monitoring the legality of acts of the executive branch. The latter could act only within the confines of the law, and all laws must be in keeping with the Constitution. The Basic Law provided for cases in which the legislative and the executive branches might not agree on

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a specific issue. Under the Basic Law, the President of the Republic either accepted the National Assembly's views or jeopardized his own term of office. If he dissolved the Assembly because he did not agree with it, and if the same Assembly was re-elected, the President was obliged to resign.

16. The National Transition Council and the National Assembly were two distinct bodies; they did not exist simultaneously. The National Transition Council would continue to function until the National Assembly was elected, at which time it would automatically cease to exist. Under the Basic Law, the members of the National Transition Council were appointed by the President of the Republic, and their sole task was to prepare the organic laws that were required for the establishment of the main institutions of the Guinean State. Such laws dealt with the charter of political parties, the change in the number of parties, the composition and functions of the Economic and Social Council, the freedom of the press, the budget for 1992-1993, and the attributes and functions of the Supreme Court and the High Court of Justice.

17. Replying to a question on the role of the referendum, he said that it could be used both by the legislature against the executive and by the executive against the legislature. With respect to the ratification of presidential acts by the National Assembly, he explained that article 67 of the Basic Law defined the areas in which the President had authority to take action, including foreign affairs and finance, but also provided a means by which the National Assembly could monitor his actions.

18. Turning to the judicial system, he said that article 80 of the Basic Law made provision for a completely independent judiciary. Under the Law, the Supreme Court functioned as a means of recourse against both executive and legislative acts as well as a court of appeals. Because it was required to rule on the constitutionality of presidential decrees, it served both to ensure their constitutionality and to make it known to the nation that the President was acting constitutionally. The Supreme Court also adjudicated questions of jurisdiction between the various parts of the judicial system and was the highest court of appeal. No provision had been made for recourse against its decisions as it was itself the last level of recourse.

19. Both the State Security Court and the military courts had ceased to exist with the promulgation of the Basic Law.

20. Guinea had as yet no jurisprudence on the separation of powers because its new system had not yet been fully implemented. The structure of the judiciary had, however, been defined by law. It provided for the nomination of judges by the Ministry of Justice and their approval by the Supreme Council. No judge could be removed or transferred without his prior agreement except in cases of extreme emergency, when the Supreme Council was empowered to take such action.

21. On the matter of political parties, he said that the new Government had originally intended to begin with a two-party system. However, that had prompted so much criticism that it had decided to adopt the multi-party system envisaged under article 2 of the Basic Law; there were now 42 parties in existence. Those parties were required to submit their statutes to the Ministry

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of the Interior, which reviewed them for constitutionality and then issued a notice that the party had been formed.

22. With regard to the question concerning popular participation in public life, he noted that under the Basic Law it was the duty of all citizens to participate in elections, the only restrictions being those relating to age and those resulting from conviction of an offence involving the loss of civil rights. On the connection between the Basic Law and the Covenant, he said that the intent of article 2 of the Basic Law was to ensure that no limitations were imposed on individual freedoms except those essential to public order. Even that reservation was not open-ended, however, as article 2, paragraph 5, specified that certain rights were inalienable.

23. The legislative elections, which had been scheduled to be held at the beginning of 1991, had been delayed because of a disagreement about how the printing of ballots was to be financed. They would be held as soon as the matter was finally resolved. Guinea had now ratified the Optional Protocol; it was preparing a Code of Family Law, which would, inter alia, cover questions relating to the dowry system. An effort was being made to reduce the obligation to pay dowry to a symbolic level, but the question was a difficult one because tradition and the authority of the family remained very powerful forces in Guinean society. Efforts were being made to modify those forces through education rather than legislation, not only with regard to the dowry system but in other areas such as those of female circumcision and polygamy. On the matter of divorce, he said that divorce proceedings could be initiated by either party; traditionally, however, the families were also involved, and they usually tried to preserve the marriage. If that proved impossible, however, the divorce took place. Infanticide, could be a criminal offence; however, where it had been carried out involuntarily, it was a lesser offence. Imprisonment, for any violation of civil law, including for debt, was illegal. The practice still existed in some rural areas, however, and was difficult to eliminate because some debtors acquiesced in the system and did not bring a complaint.

24. The report had been criticized for omitting any reference to the question of discrimination on grounds of race, language or colour, but the fact was that no distinctions on those grounds existed in Guinea, and all forms of discrimination were prohibited. The only distinctions made in the country were those relating to ethnic background. There had been a kind of spontaneous emergence of ethnocentricity in the country as a result of the democratization process, and some of the new political parties reflected that fact. Although that ethnocentricity was not so much a matter of discrimination as a search on the part of some elements of the population for a basis for solidarity, it did create problems.

25. Turning to the question of human rights organizations, he said that a proper legal framework was needed to guarantee their existence and operation. However, because of delays in drawing up legislation, the President of the Republic had authorized the Ministry of the Interior to grant recognition to properly constituted organizations. A Guinean human rights association now existed and was very active in the field.

Right to life, treatment of prisoners and other detainees, liberty and security of the person (articles 6, 7, 9 and 10 of the Covenant) (section II of the list of issues)

26. The CHAIRMAN read out section II of the list of issues concerning the second periodic report of Guinea, namely: (a) details of the offences punishable by the death penalty and whether abolition of the death penalty had been envisaged; (b) frequency with which the death penalty had been imposed and carried out since consideration of the initial report and the offences concerned; (c) violations of the rules and regulations governing use of firearms by police and security forces and measures to prevent their recurrence; clarification of the circumstances leading to the deaths mentioned in paragraph 117 of the report; (d) information concerning investigations of disappearances which occurred before 1988; (e) details of complaints concerning extrajudicial executions or torture and measures to investigate and punish those responsible and prevent the recurrence of such acts; (f) information on arrangements for the supervision of places of detention and on procedures for receiving and investigating complaints; (g) information on the infant mortality rate and progress made in that field; (h) informing families of detainees of their arrest and providing access to a lawyer; (i) difficulties in observing the maximum legal period of detention in custody and of pre-trial detention.

27. Mr. THIAM (Guinea) said that the death penalty was imposed for murder, crimes against the external security of the State, illegal use of armed force, fomenting civil war, looting, and the use of torture or other barbaric acts while committing a crime. Guinea was a country with a Muslim majority and no consideration was being given to the abolition of the death penalty at the present time. Since the consideration of the initial report, only one death sentence had been handed down and none had been carried out.

28. With regard to the deaths referred to in paragraph 117 of the report, one person had been run over by a truck as a result of his own carelessness, while two others had died during struggles between rival groups of students. A young woman of 17 had also been killed when the crowd reacted violently after seeing her in the company of a foreigner.

29. It had not seemed appropriate to conduct investigations into disappearances since those responsible were now dead and it was thought unwise to reopen old wounds which might jeopardize the process of national reconciliation. Certain political parties had called for a national conference to be held on the subject, but the authorities had preferred to grant pardons.

30. With regard to the arrangements for the supervision of places of detention, a department for the administration of prisons consisting solely of magistrates had been set up within the Ministry of Justice and was responsible for ensuring that the relevant legal provisions were properly applied in prisons.

31. He was unable to provide figures on the infant mortality rate, but did point out that the overall mortality rate and the maternal mortality rate had fallen sharply since 1984, while the number of primary health care centres had increased substantially.

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32. When an individual was arrested the family was always informed immediately, and the administrative authorities were required by law to inform local communities. Under existing law, access to a lawyer was required only in the office of the examining magistrate who was required to inform persons in custody of all their rights. Difficulties did arise in observing the maximum legal period of detention in custody, usually in remote rural areas because of the lack of communication infrastructures.

Right to a fair trial (article 14 of the Covenant) (section III of the list of issues)

33. The CHAIRMAN read out section III of the list of issues concerning the second periodic report of Guinea, namely: (a) guarantees for the independence and impartiality of the judiciary; (b) information on the composition and jurisdiction of the State Security Court and the military courts, including details of cases considered by those courts; (c) information on the implementation of the right to a public trial provided for in article 14, paragraph 1, of the Covenant.

34. Mr. THIAM (Guinea) said that the independence and impartiality of the judiciary were guaranteed by Act No. 91/011, which provided for the irremovability of judges and for a special body to supervise their appointment and recruitment. Article 80 of the Basic Law enshrined the principle of the independence of the judiciary, while article 81 stipulated that judges were subject only to the authority of the law in the performance of their duties.

35. The State Security Court had been abolished and replaced by the High Court of Justice, which consisted of members elected by the National Assembly under the presidency of a judge. Military courts no longer existed in Guinea. All trials were open and accessible to the public and were held during legal working hours. At least 48 hours advance notice was required.

Freedom of movement and expulsion of aliens, right to privacy, freedom of opinion and expression, freedom of association and assembly, and right of persons belonging to minorities (articles 12, 13, 17, 19, 21, 22 and 27 of the Covenant) (section IV of the list of issues)

36. The CHAIRMAN read out section IV of the list of issues concerning the second periodic report of Guinea, namely: (a) legal provisions governing the expulsion of aliens and the question of whether appeals against expulsion orders had suspensive effect; (b) information on the result of legal proceedings initiated in cases of arbitrary interference with the privacy of individuals or families, or with their correspondence; (c) information on laws or regulations governing the recognition of religions or religious sects by public authorities, with particular reference to measures taken against the emergence of certain sects whose fundamentalists views appeared likely to threaten public order and social peace; (d) information and examples relating to restrictions imposed by articles 244 to 266 of the Penal Code on the freedom of opinion and expression; (e) information on measures taken by the authorities to ensure plurality of press organs; (f) explanation of criteria and procedures for the registration of political parties and trade unions, including measures to facilitate the

(The Chairman)

establishment of political parties and to secure political pluralism;
(g) details of ethnic, religious or linguistic minorities existing in the Republic of Guinea and measures to protect the rights of persons belonging to ethnic, religious or cultural minorities, including information on the events affecting relations between ethnic groups mentioned in paragraph 129 of the report.

37. Mr. THIAM (Guinea) said that orders for the expulsion of aliens were issued by the Minister of the Interior. Appeals against an expulsion order were permissible and did have suspensive effect. There were no laws governing the recognition of religions or religious sects by public authorities and there was absolute freedom in that field. Articles 174 to 177 of the Penal Code dealt with the possible threat to public order posed by the activities of ministers of religious sects.

38. Freedom of opinion and expression was regulated by articles 244 to 266 of the Penal Code. Under article 254, all written publications and other printed matter were required to bear the name, profession and address of the author or printer. That was intended as a guarantee of probity and to ensure that the author's identity was known if defamatory or prejudicial remarks were published. Article 256 prohibited publications whose aim was to incite to crime, while article 258 prohibited the publication of pornographic material.

39. Freedom of the press and other sectors of the media was guaranteed by Act No. 91/005, the only restrictions imposed being those needed to protect the dignity of the person, ensure plurality of opinion and safeguard public order and national unity. The law gave all citizens the right to set up, own and operate newspapers, publications, radio and television stations, and any organ intended for the promotion and dissemination of ideas and opinions. Provision also existed for the right of reply and for sanctions against abuses by the press such as incitement, obscenity and libel. There was a flourishing press sector with some 20 different publications.

40. The registration of political parties was governed by Act No. 91/002, which contained no limitations on or obstacles to the establishment of political parties. All political parties were required to apply for an administrative authorization. Applications had to be processed by a certain deadline; if the authorization was denied reasons must be given. Appeals against a refusal could be lodged with the Supreme Court. All the legally constituted political parties had equal access to State-owned information media.

41. While there were many different ethnic groups in Guinea, extensive intermarriage had made the country a melting pot where no minority feared for its survival. For that reason, there was little need to provide for protective measures and article 8 of the Basic Law was deemed to be sufficient for that purpose. Some problems had occurred in the past when the crimes of the former regime were attributed to the Malinké group, because the former President had been of that ethnic origin. For similar reasons, the Susu group tended to be blamed for the real or alleged failings of the current authorities. However, he was glad to say that ethnic rivalry was giving way to national sentiment.

42. The CHAIRMAN invited members of the Committee to ask questions relating to sections II, III and IV of the list of issues.

43. Mr. WENNERGREN said that he would welcome an explanation of the contradiction between the continuing existence of the death penalty in Guinea and the provisions of articles 5 and 6 of the Basic Law, which asserted that the right to life was absolute. He noted that the State Security Court had been replaced by the High Court of Justice, whose members were supposed to be elected by the National Assembly. However, no elections had been held and the National Assembly did not yet exist. He therefore wondered whether the members of the Court had been elected by the National Transition Council for a transitional period. With regard to article 14, paragraph 5, of the Convention, he wanted to know whether sentences handed down by the High Court of Justice were subject to review.

44. Mr. EL-SHAFEI said that many of the questions contained in the list of issues had been dealt with too rapidly by the Guinean delegation and the answers given had not been sufficiently detailed. On the question of disappearances, he felt that the death of those responsible did not absolve the State of its responsibility for conducting investigations, since the purpose of those investigations was to establish responsibility for the crimes and, where appropriate, to provide compensation for the families of victims. He would also welcome further information concerning reports of disappearances and extrajudicial executions which had occurred after the end of military rule. Amnesty International had cited cases of torture during pre-trial detention which had apparently not been investigated by the authorities. He wondered whether the delegation could shed any light on that question. The Guinean delegation had earlier maintained that lack of funds for the organization of political parties had been the reason for the postponement of the elections. He was concerned that the elections might be postponed again on the same grounds and was eager to know what measures the Government had taken to remedy the situation. He also wished to know whether there were specific legal provisions applicable to cultural and ethnic minorities.

45. Mrs. CHANET said that she shared Mr. Wennergren's concern that the continuing use of the death penalty was incompatible with the provisions of article 6 of the Basic Law. She was also concerned that the restrictions provided for in article 22 of the Basic Law were incompatible with the provisions of the Covenant. According to Amnesty International, 63 cases of disappearances had still not been cleared up. The fact that the disappearances had occurred under the former regime was not a valid excuse, and the State could not shirk its responsibility for carrying out investigations.

46. Violence and deaths during demonstrations appeared to be commonplace and she wondered whether the legislation on the use of firearms by security forces was based on the principle that firearms should be used only in cases of legitimate self-defence. With regard to article 7 of the Covenant, Amnesty International had reported a case where 24 prisoners had been severely beaten, yet no action had been taken against the prison officers concerned. Perhaps the Guinean delegation could clarify that situation. She considered that the resignation felt by victims of torture and ill-treatment referred to in article 106 of the report was scarcely a valid argument. Proper legal protection should be

(Mrs. Chanet)

provided in order to overcome such attitudes. If victims knew that they had the support and protection of the law, perhaps they would be less reluctant to come forward.

47. With regard to article 9 of the Covenant, she was concerned by reports that secret detention centres had been set up outside the control of the public authorities. Political opponents of the Government, including members of the Rassemblement du Peuple Guinéen, had been arrested and were allegedly being held in such centres. She asked whether there was any truth in those reports.

48. Mr. PRADO VALLEJO said that the issue of whether or not there were any political detainees in Guinea needed clarification. Further, it was astonishing that the new authorities had not fulfilled their prime obligation to investigate allegations of torture and the extrajudicial executions which were known to have been carried out. The reporting State should explain the reasons for any detentions which had taken place without due process and the measures taken to prevent such occurrences. He would also welcome information on how the fundamental principles of the Covenant were to be applied concerning recourse against decisions given by security and military courts. It was disquieting, for example, to hear that the identity of the military personnel who had been convicted was unknown. He therefore wished to know whether the authorities had taken steps to prevent secret trials and verdicts, for which there could be no justification. Any decisions taken to rectify the situation where individuals were unaware of charges or sentences against them should also be indicated. The same applied to decisions taken to prevent instances where persons accused and sentenced of crimes were denied access to legal advice. Finally, he inquired whether any steps were being taken to reveal the location of and then close secret detention sites.

49. Mrs. EVATT joined in emphasizing the importance of investigating all allegations of torture, disappearance and death in custody. An independent agency to investigate and report on torture and similar abuses, and where necessary, initiate punishment and award compensation, could help to overcome the regrettable attitude of resignation adopted by torture victims. Guinea's recognition of the assumption of innocence and of legal limitations on the power of detention was encouraging. However, she would appreciate further information on the practical application of the relevant laws in view of the continued allegations of arrests, arbitrary detentions and political prisoners. Confidence in the democratic process could be restored through scrupulous observance of the rules laid down by law, which entailed providing access to legal advice, informing concerned families and making a habeas corpus procedure immediately available to detainees. More practical steps were therefore needed to provide the underlying infrastructure in which all law enforcement officers, the judiciary and the independent legal profession received the required training. She wished to know whether Guinea had implemented its previous assertions that all judges should be lawyers. In addition, as fair trial and protection against arbitrary detention depended on the existence of well-trained judges and lawyers, she would welcome further details on their training and on action taken to ensure that the assumption of innocence was preserved with guarantees.

(Mrs. Evatt)

50. Since freedom to hold meetings and organize was vital to democracy, she asked whether there was any substance to the allegations that the Rassemblement du Peuple Guinéen had been denied that opportunity, and that some of its members had been arrested and detained. It had also been suggested that there were restrictions on the right to strike and she would welcome further clarification on the matter.

51. Mr. FODOR said that he would appreciate details of the scope of competence of the High Court of Justice and the type of cases referred to it. With regard to implementation of article 6, paragraph 5, of the Covenant, he requested information concerning the statutory provisions applicable to death sentences on persons below the age of 18 and asked whether there were any legal prohibitions on carrying out death sentences on pregnant women.

52. Referring to allegations of the use of hand grenades against civilians by the security forces, he inquired whether such use was permissible by law and, if so, whether any limitations applied. He also wished to learn whether any effective investigation had been conducted into those incidents and if the perpetrators had been convicted. Finally, given that prison conditions in Guinea were reportedly primitive and unhealthy, it would be helpful to know whether juvenile offenders were segregated from adults in all prisons. Statistics on the number of deaths due to malnutrition and disease in prisons and detention centres over the past five years would also be useful.

53. Mr. BRUNI CELLI endorsed the questions already asked concerning the death penalty, the investigation of torture complaints, secret and closed trials, political prisoners and prison conditions. Referring to the dissolution of associations provided for under article 23, paragraph 3, of the Basic Law, he requested details concerning the method used to dissolve such associations and the authority which decided their dissolution. He also wished to know whether any organic law governed the dissolution process, and if so, whether it was enacted according to the principles of the Covenant.

54. He would appreciate details of how the right to cultural preservation provided for in article 19, paragraph 3, of the Basic Law was applied in relation to article 27 of the Covenant. According to paragraph 121 of the report, Guinea was sheltering over 300,000 refugees, who were not housed in camps. He wondered whether their culture was fully respected and whether, in view of the number of refugees, any resulting impact was felt on the various cultures in Guinea itself.

55. Mr. NDIAYE, referring to article 76 of the Basic Law, drew attention to the risk of serious conflict between the President of the Republic and the National Assembly. Although the only obligation in respect of the Covenant was to ensure broad participation in the administration of public affairs, a much simpler system could have been envisaged. Of the 30 African States which had ratified the Covenant, Guinea was neither the poorest nor the least informed. It was therefore in a position to take more positive action with regard to torture and prison conditions. Vocational training with a view to social rehabilitation was a better preventive measure than punishment in the case of petty offenders. The

(Mr. Ndiaye)

fact that some of those responsible for disappearances were now dead was no justification for the State's failure to investigate the disappearances and compensate the families of victims.

56. With regard to the obligation to vote, he wondered whether there were any related penalties and also how voting was organized. He then requested further details concerning the training, status and recruitment of judges. In West Africa women were generally highly politicized and reasonably well educated. Traditions and values notwithstanding, he felt that their demands were probably more forceful than the report seemed to suggest. He asked whether the press, with its narrow market, had yet received the assistance from the State which it had earlier been said to need. In terms of minorities, he said that Guinea, which had both religious and linguistic minorities, had taken insufficient account of the Covenant. He inquired whether those minorities had the right to practise their respective languages and culture as provided under the Covenant. More details should also be given concerning Guinea's ethnic minorities, which were relatively undeveloped compared to the larger ethnic groups.

57. Further explanation should be provided concerning article 77 of the Basic Law, which stipulated, unusually, that treaties could only be ratified by a law. He also believed that article 86 was dangerous in providing that only the National Assembly could make accusations against the head of State, who would then be replaced by the President of the National Assembly. Finally, he would welcome information on whether implementation of the Covenant was affected by the situation in Liberia.

58. The CHAIRMAN announced that the deadline for the submission of the fourth periodic report by Uruguay had been extended from 21 March 1993 to 31 December 1994.

The meeting rose at 6 p.m.